

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 11 were pending in the present application. Claims 1 to 11 remain pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,432,874 ("Muraguchi"). Specifically, the Examiner cited Fig. 2 for disclosing the recited signal propagation paths that are exempt from slices because Fig. 2 does not show any splices. Applicant respectfully traverses.

35 U.S.C. § 113 requires a patent application to have drawings when necessary to understand the invention. 37 C.F.R. §1.83 requires the drawing to show every feature in the claims. Thus, drawings are not required to show features (1) that are not related to the understanding of the invention and (2) that are not in the claims.

The invention of Muraguchi is concerned with preventing eye damage when optical fibers between two links become disengaged or break down. To prevent eye damage, Muraguchi utilizes a detection circuit 14 and a control circuit 15 that disable a laser diode 8 when a light signal is no longer detected by a photo-diode 13 in the link. Muraguchi, col. 2, lines 3 to 8; col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 14.

Fig. 2 is a simplified block diagram that demonstrates the invention of Muraguchi. As the invention of Muraguchi is not related to signal propagation paths and its claims do not recite signal propagation paths, Fig. 2 does not need to illustrate the details of its signal propagation paths. Thus, the absence of splices in the signal propagation paths in Fig. 2 is not dispositive proof that Muraguchi discloses propagation paths that are without splices. The splices may simply have been omitted for the sake of clarity since they are not related to the invention and are not claimed.

The text of Muraguchi also does not describe the propagation paths, especially col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 9 cited by the Examiner. If anything, the absence of any detailed description of the signal propagation paths infers that they are conventional and therefore include splices to connect the optical fibers between the converters, multiplexers, de-multiplexers, and connectors.

For the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Muraguchi.

Claims 2 to 11

Claims 2 to 11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Summary

In summary, claims 1 to 11 were pending in the present application. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 11. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480x206.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted prior to expiration of the set period of time by being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

/David C Hsia/
Signature

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

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